(c) how many air-buses and other aircrafts are being purchased; and

(d) what are the conditions on which this loan has been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In order to finance the purchase of 19 Airbus A 320 aircraft, Indian Airlines has, with the approval of the Government, signed an Agreement on the 23rd of March, 1989 with the Japanese bank for a loan of US $ 200 million. The salient terms and conditions of the loan are:

1.	Borrower	Indian Airlines
2.	Lender	Consortium of Japanese Banks (a syndicate of 12 Japanese banks)
3.	Amount of Loan	US $ 200 million
4.	Maturity period	10 years and 3 months
5.	Rate of Interest	LIBOR (London International Bank Offered Rate) Flat.
6.	Agency fee	US $ 5000 per annum.

Relief Supplies to Afghanistan

916. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have sent any relief supplies to Kabul through its own planes as a part of humanitarian assistance;

(b) if so, what is the total aid so far provided to that country;

(c) whether Afghan Government had approached India for humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the number of countries which have supplied relief to Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) The Afghanistan Government had requested India for relief assistance. As on 22nd April, 1989, assistance worth about Rs. 27 lakhs consisting of medicines, vanaspati, tea and sugar had been sent by India to Kabul through the Indian Airlines, in Ariana Airlines aircraft.

(d) According to available information, mainly Soviet and Indian relief supplies have so far reached Kabul.

Unification of Cargo-handling Labour at Ports

917. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sub-group of the working group on ports set up by the Union Minister of Surface Transport has recommended unification of cargo-handling labour at ports;

(b) if so, what were the recommendations made by this sub-Committee;

(c) how many of them have been accepted; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sub-Group has made a number of recommendations. Some of the important recommendations *inter alia* are:

(1) Revision of norms of output for assessing operational performance;

(2) Measures for improving labour productivity;

(3) Setting up of training institutes;

(4) Measures for quick disposal of surplus equipment;

(5) Rationalisation of manning scales and datums.

(c) and (d) The Working Group on ports set up to formulate the VIII Five Year Plan for the port sector will take note of these recommendations while finalising its report.

Explosion at Calcutta Airport

913. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an explosion took place at the Calcutta airport on April 11, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, what are the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 11th April, 1989, a bomb blast triggered in between counter No. 3 and 4 at 1155 hours from a package carried by a Bombay based courier M/s Blaza Flash Courier Pvt. Ltd. The blast occurred when a representative of the company is stated to have shifted courier bag for weighing before booking for flight IC-273 Calcutta-Bombay the same day.

(c) and (d) West Bengal Police have registered a case in this connection and have arrested two employees of the courier.

Construction of a Bridge over Brahamputra

919. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foundation stone for the construction of a bridge over River Brahamputra at Jogighopa was laid by late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of work done for the construction of the bridge?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 17.5 per cent.

Wage Agreements in Hotel Corporation of India

920. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) since when the existing Wage Agreements in respect of the officers and staff of the Hotel Corporation of India have been in operation, classwise separately;

(b) whether these agreements are over due for revision; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard and by when and